

Appl. No.: 10/656,709
Amdt. dated 02/02/2005
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action dated December 3, 2004, Claims 1-14 are pending, including independent Claims 1 and 9. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,574 to Burky, et al. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, and 13 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 9 to incorporate dependent Claims 6 and 12, respectively. Claims 6 and 12 were previously indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 9 are now allowable, as are each of the remaining dependent claims. Claims 6 and 12 are cancelled.

Newly added Claims 15, 16, and 17 incorporate each of the limitations of original Claims 4, 7, and 13, respectively, each of which was indicated to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that each of Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 is allowable.

* * * *

CONCLUSIONS

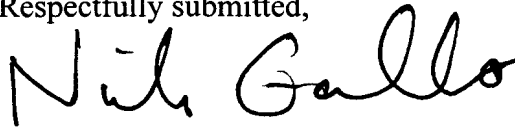
In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

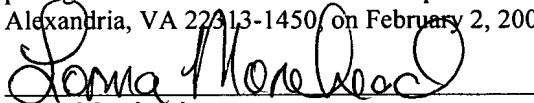


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 2, 2005


Lorna Morehead

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